

REMARKS

Claims 1-26, including independent Claims 1, 13, 22 and 23, were pending in the subject application. Claim 7 stands allowable but objected to, and all others stand rejected. Claim 25 is cancelled hereby, such that Claims 1-24 and 26, including independent Claims 1, 13, 22 and 23, will be pending after entry of the amendment herein.

Amendment

No new matter is added by the present amendment. The amendments to Claims 1, 13 and 22 are readily supported by other claims, such as Claim 5 and 6, and the amendments to Claim 23 are supported by previous Claim 25 (now canceled). The Abstract is amended stylistically as requested by the Examiner, but is substantively unchanged.

Double Patenting Rejection

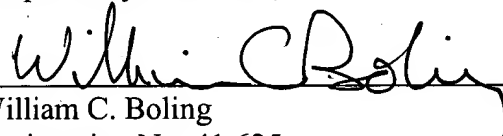
A terminal disclaimer of the subject application to the expected term of a patent expected to issue from related application 09/687,199 is attached. The terminal disclaimer complies with the Examiner's request to overcome the provisional double-patenting rejection that was set forth in an earlier Office Action in respect of the subject application.

Conclusion

The amendment set forth above is believed to place the application in condition for immediate allowance to the satisfaction of the Examiner. The previously pending claims were believed to render the application properly allowable over all cited prior art, and the further narrowing effected by this amendment buttresses such allowability. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a notice of allowance with respect to all presently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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William C. Boling
Registration No. 41,625

JAQUEZ & ASSOCIATES
6265 Greenwich Drive, Suite 100D
San Diego, California 92122-5916
(858) 453-2004 (TEL)
(858) 453-1280 (FAX)
E-mail: barbara@jaquez-associates.com; bill@jaquez-associates.com